

Welcome to the Ancien FAr north . . . And the World oF the micekings

WHERE THEY LIVE:

Miceking Island

CAPITAL:

Mouseborg, home of the Stiltonord family

OTHER VILIAGES:

Oofadale, village of the Oofa Oofas, and Fe village of the vilekings

CLIMATE:

chief.

Cold, cold, especially when the ideblows!

TYPICAL FOoD:

Gloog, a superstinky but fabumouse stew. 'recipe is closely guarded by the wife of

NATIONAL DRINK:

Finnbrew, made of equal parts codfish juic

herring juice, with a splash of squid ink

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION:

The drekar, a light but very fast ship GREATEST HONOR:

The miceking helmet. It is only earned who mouse performs an act of courage of

Challenge.
UNIT OF MEASUREMENT:

A mouseking tail (full tail, half tail, thi tail,

quarter tail)

EN

EMIES:

The terrible dragons who live in Beastgard

meet the stiltonord FAmi

GERONIMO

Advisor to the miceking chief

TRAP

The most famouse inventor in Mouseborg

BENJAMIN

Geronimo's nephew

THEA

A horse trainer who works well with all kinds of animals BUGSILDA

Benjamin's best

friend

And the evil drAgons!

SZLLEI The cook

•

GOBBLER THE PUTRID
The fierce king of the dragons is a Devourer!
The dragons are divided into
5 clans, all of which are terrifying!
1. Devourers

They love to eat micekings raw — no cooking necessary.

2. Steamers

They grab micekings, then fly over volcanoes so the steam and smoke good.

3. Biters

Before eating micekings, they nibble them delicately to see if they like them or not.

4. Slurpers

They wrap their long tongues around micekings and slurp them up.

5. Rinsers

As soon as they catch micekings, they rinse them in a stream to wash them off.

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Attack of the Dragons

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Ahh, Miceking Winter!

It was an icy winter morning in Mouseborg, the capital of Mic Island. Snow covered the enti village, ice dangled from every roof, and the freezing north wind blew so

cold

that my tail
nearly turned into an
icicle
and fell
off!
Winter here is
truly
shivery

Excuse me — I haven't myself yet. My name is Geronimo Stiltonord and am mouseking! As I was saying, in **MOUSEBORG** the winter is very cold, but it's al peaceful time of year.

The answer is simple:

Why?

dragons hate the winter! They are and the cold and snow cools them these enormouse, hungry creatures leave us micekings alone for

Ah, winter! What a season!
Back to that wintry morns snoring

months.

under a wool blanket in n when a tremendous noise sudden me. "Huh? Who said that?" yelled.

My whiskers

curled

in fear, but then
I heard the noise again.

The sound was coming from .

stomach

! It was complaining because

I hadn't had breakfast yet.

Still in my pajamas,

dragged myself to the window, yawning like a bea of hibernation. I peered outside.

Snow

completely blanketed village.
There was snow on the mot

on the houses, and snow on roads.

I was looking forward spending the day in my

warm

little house.

"I'll start with a breakfast fit for a barbarian!" I announced.

I decided to make a pile of
toast
with two sticks of goat bu
wedge
of stinky
Stenchberg cheese
, a

scrambled

pan of

seagull eggs, and a big wild blueberry smoothie. I wanted to keep it light, so I figured I would leave out the fjordberry jam.
Licking my lips in anticipation

my cupboard and . . .

Great groaning glaciers!

Oh no! The bread was . . . gone! The was . . . gone! The eggs Stenchberg cheese, the wild blueberries. all gone! My cupboard was as empty as a groundhog's den in spring.

a piece of pickled seawee

even

left!

```
Slurp!
We micekings have a true passion of the cold north seas. We also love
CHEESE
, of course!
```

the speciAlties of Miceking cooking

For dessert we love herring ice cream topped with melted goat cheese, and PIE made with fjordberry

jam and seaweed (2). It's delicious! An ancient miceking saying is: CHEESE IS LIKE FISH THE STINKIER THE BETTER! n fact, **STENCHBERG CHEESE** (1), one of the most prized miceking cheeses, has

an odor that will make

you

collapse from a thousand tails away!
What a smell!

2

Tasty! But the greatest MICEKING **SPECIALTY** of all is a stew called **GLOOG** (4). Included in the ingredients are herring scales, crab claws, melted S tenchberg cheese, and seagull eggs. Mousehilde, the wife of our village chief, makes the

best gloog anywhere but her complete recipe is a secret! During grand miceking feasts, we drink **FINNBREW** (3), made of equal parts codfish juice and herring juice, with a splash of squid ink. Get in line!

```
I sighed.
```

But

but

... how can this

be?"

Then it hit me . . . how long he since I'd gone

shopping?
Squeak!

It was so

cold that I had kept puttin off.

Oh no! My stomach was again.
There was only one solution:

outside and get supplies. Bu facing the icy north wind.

BRRRRRRRRRR!

Just
thinking about it made n

shiver!

So cold!

guuurgle! guuuuuuuurgle!

To go out in that cold, I had ton

three

thick tunics,

two

wool coats, gloves, and fur earmuffs.

I was so busy bundling up the

take off my pajamas

first! So I had to start all over again.

When I was finally ready, I state the door, timidly opened it, and . . An icy gust of wind cur

whiskers.
Shivering squids! It was bachilly!

plodded

through the snow, pushing against the

icy wind to get to the

marketplace.
As I got closer,
the smell of
Stenchberg cheese
tickled
my
nose.

I sniffed the air, enjoying the delicious aroma, when . .

•

Great groaning glaciers, I was so hungry!

What?
Don't you hear
the dragons?

How embarrassing!

Luckily,
there was no one around. As
what

thought.

Suddenly, a big, heavy rodent skidded

down the hill and banged me!

"Draaaaagon alert!

Take
cover
, Geronimo!
Do you

hear

those

terrifying

cries?

It's dragons. We're under

attack!" It was my cousin Trap! "Dr-dr-dragons?" I stammered. "Are you sure?" Trap ducked behind a mound of snow and looked up at the sky. Just then . .

Trap

The Inventor

Trap is my cousin, and he's the most famouse inventor in Mouseborg. (He's also the only inventor!) his test inventions for him, and NONE OF THEM WORK! I'm always risking my fur in the process. Why, why, why does it always have to be me?!

Cousin, you're my favorite tester!

My stomach rumbled once age embarrassing

! T

blushed

, and then explained to
Trap, "Sorry, Cousin. I haven't l
yet, and my empty stomac
some

little

noises. Could you perhaps, er,

have mistaken it for the roar

```
a
dragon
```

?"

Trap looked at me sternly. of

joke

is that, Geronimo? You should fool rodents with a false That's

just not funny."

"It wasn't a prank," I proteste sorry

Trap nodded. "I accept your a

Geronimo. And now you can testing

my new invention: the ratsled!"

I noticed that he had a large lastrapped to his back. I could swooden

boards, hooks, and oiled rope That looked dangerous! I shook my head. "Forget it, 7 time I test one of your inventions , I risk my fur!" "You're exaggerating , Geronimo," Trap said. "This is totally safe. by the end of the test run, y do it all over again!"

I sighed. Trap can be as

stubborn

Α

as a mountain. He won't take answer!

gust
of wind hit me, and I
shivered

. I supposed that anything would be better than standing freezing

"All right, I'll do it," I sque

```
first,
I must eat
breakfast
!"
```

Trap took me by the arm and

Let's go, Cousin!
happily. "Of course! I would last
wish of my
best tester

best tester

"Last wish?" I squeaked.

Miceking trAining

On the road, Trap and I ran in Sven

the

micekings

Shouter
, the village chief, followed by line of micelaines in training

line of micekings in training were

singing the miceking anthem.

No matter how cold it

must train every day.

Why don't I train with the mam what's known as

Smarty-mouseking

a

"We train hard all day long!
We fight and kick and swing!
We are brave and we are strong,
For we are the micekings!"

I am all brains and no muscles. I hid behind a tree, and tried to make myself look very, very small , hoping they wouldn't see me. But Sven

the Shouter spotted me. "Geronimo, you goodfor-nothing smartymouseking! Are you hiding

?"

"N-no, I'm not," I nervously replied. "I was, um, just looking for my

notepad

• "

"A notepad won't

help you train on the Field of Eternal

sven

The Shouter

Sven is the leader of our village. All of Mouseborg admires and respects him.

He's called "the Shouter"
because he shouts louder
than anyone, and he
shouts all the time.
Mostly,
he shouts AT ME! He
cannot understand
why

I have never earned a miceking helmet, our greatest honor.

Challenges

. You need muscles! And since you're as soft as a jellyfish, train.

Let's go!"

I sighed. "But I'm hungry! I d breakfast."

But

Sven the Shouter didn't care about my breakfast. He shouted at me

Smartymouseking , no excuses! Get moving and train until I can see one little up on your scrawny arm. So s Shouter!"

echoed the other micekings roar.

Trap and I marched with the

Trap and I marched with the Field of Eternal Challenges, where miceking training.

I was

not

cut out for that kind of exercise!

"So says Sven the

```
WHISKER
LIFTS
Oof!
Oops!
MICEKING PUSH- UPS
First I had to do
three
hundred
push-ups
on
only
one paw! I'm not even
good at push-ups using
both
paws.
After doing only two,
```

my stomach rumbled loudly.

The micekings began to shout, Dragons!

Trap snickered. "Hee, hee. just

my cousin's stomach."

Sven turned red

"

with rage.

"Geronimo, lift up that pile of logs

... with your

BOULDERTOSS Uh-oh!

whiskers!"

demanded.

whiskers,

ground. "Take cover!

Dragon alert!

"

again."

Sven grumbled.

he

I quickly attached the log

and my stomach started to con The other micekings dropp

Trap giggled. "Relax! It's just

"Hey you, jellyfish legs !" he called out to me. "Stop interrupting our practice. Get over there and toss some boulders

So says Sven the Shouter!"
The micekings echoed him:

I trudged over to the boulde to find one that fit in the palm

But the

smallest

boulder weighed more than

I did . . . clothes included!

I was so

worn out

I didn't have enough energy crumb

of cheese. But I tried to lift the anyway. My stomach roloudly.

The micekings started around in terror.

"So says Sven the Shoute

Hee, hee! The dragons! It's an attack! Grrrr! "The dragons are coming!" they screamed. Sven the Shouter fumed "Great groaning glaciers, that's enough ! Go eat some gloog, Geronimo order!" "Y-yes, Sven," I stammered. Sven turned to the micekings.

taking a break so that Geronia

bothering us with

his rumbling

stomach anymore!" I blushed.

How embarrassing!

But I wasn't too upset. I

enough to eat a

mountain of gloog!

"Everyone, march to my hous

ordered.

Achoo! Achoo!

By the time we reached Sverof of us were as hungry as bears

coming out of hibernation.

Mousehilde!

I brought some guests,"
Sven called out. "Can you famouse

gloog for them?"

As you know by now, every removes gloog. And the Lands of the North, there is no gloog as delicious as Mousehilde's. She follows a

there is no gloog as delicious as Mousehilde's. She follows a secret recipe that the micekings is have passed down for centuries!

But we did not

see

Mousehilde anywhere.
And the only thing on the k

was

an empty stew pot! Hi!

*

A fjord is a long, narrow ocean cove between cliffs.

"Wife, where are you?" Sven Then he frowned. "

Thora!

"

A moment later the most beautiful

mouseking in the village step kitchen. It was Thora, Sver

Her

eyes were as blue as the

water of the fjord,

and her hair was as red as the

sunset

. She was also the most athletic

and

courageous mouseking I had What a wonderful

rodent!

"Lower your voice, Papa," Thora said in a

whisper

•

She pointed to a pile of blankets in the corner. "Mama isn't well."

44

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· A

a

a a C h Mousehilde sneezed from under the blankets. Sven rushed to her swhat is wrong?" he asked.
"She has a barbaric cold," explain Sven looked worried
. "What can I do to

better?"
"She needs rest and warm replied.
"But what would really help of

it

wild mint tea

make

. It's the perfect cure, passed down from my grandmother's grandmother."

Sven scoffed. "Wild mint tea? take

your mother to

Loki Longsight

!"

"

Mousehilde spoke up in a hoa "Why do I need a fortune-t have a little cold.

Achoo!

"

sneeze!

The whole house rocked from Mousehilde's

"Longsight knows the art of hherbs," Sven said. "And I am see him. That's

order

an

When Sven shouts an order, radares disobey him.

cried the micekings.

"So says Sven the Shoute

this cAlls for Mint teA!

We all headed to Loki Longsig

•

Mousehilde, supported continued to sneeze and cough.

Sven pounded on the door. "Loki you good-for-nothing fortune up! That's an order!"

cried

the

micekings.

The door didn't open. Then a

stone

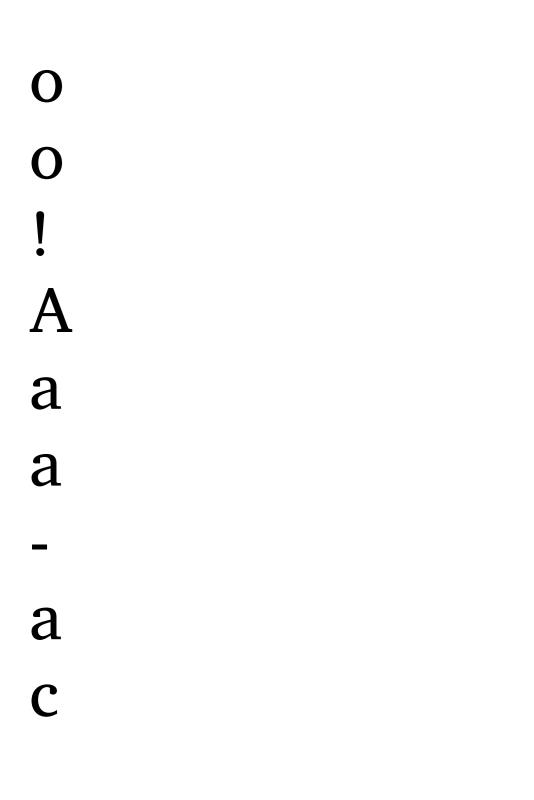
came flying through a slot door.

The stone hit me right in the pure "So says Sven the Shoute

"

A

c h



h o o

"

Then I noticed a piece of parchment tied around it.

Geronimo

you're as
weak
as
a baby herring. But
you're a
smarty-

mouseking

, SO read it to us!" Sven ordered. I read out loud: "The fortune-teller will answer many questions . . . but only during the full moon! If it's not raining! Each answer costs one wheel of Stenchberg

cheese."

Loki Longsight is the village fortune-teller.

We turn to him when we have questions, when we can't find something, when we're sick — and any time we don't know what to do!

Loki Longsight The Fortune-teller

I

S

O

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V

e

p r o

b

1

e

m

S I There was more on the other parchment.

"Buy five answers, get one free.

Payment due in advance!

"

Sven turned bright red

. "Loki Longsight! This is an

emergency

Mousehilde needs to get bette

```
so she can make us all
some
gloog
After that outburst, the fo
threw
another
stone with parchment
tied to it. Then
```

another

, then

, and

another

another

quickly gathered them up, read messages.

"What symptoms does the patient have? Spots on her nose? Red ears? A green face? Flat fur?" Mousehilde looked insulted,

but before she could say sneezed again.

again.
"These are her symptoms," I o
"Sneezing, coughing, and a
like
a

raging river

The slot opened up again and

stone

flew out.

"The fortune-teller has reanswer:

The patient has a miceking cold

!
She just needs a little rest a layer
of wool blankets. Now ple

teller."
Sven started

fortune-

shouting

again. "Loki

Longsight, you codfish fac

wait

for this cold to pass on own."

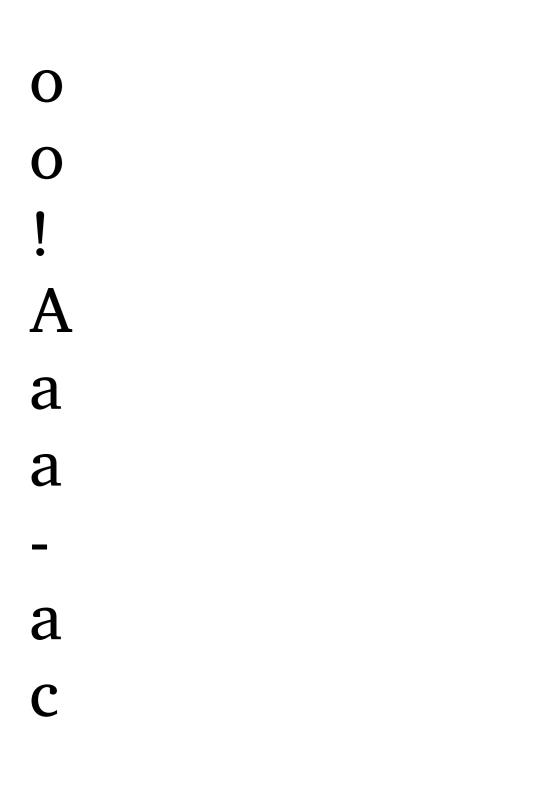
He pounded on the door. "We a

fast cure, now! So says Sve Shouter!"

"

A C

h



h o o

"

If you need to cure a cold, and you need to do it quickly, there is one cure to be told: Drink some wild mint tea! echoed the

Another note came through the

Smarty-mouseking

, what does it say?" Sven asked.

micekings.

"He says to give him a replied.

Sven frowned, but another no flew out minute a

later. "So says Sven the Shout

As soon as she heard this, flung her

rolling pin

at her husband.

"You should have listened to daughter!" she said. "Thora you that her grandmother's

grandmother's grandmother's

best!" Sven shrugged. "Fine, growled. "Thora, run and make some t

remedy was the

mother."

"You don't understand!" said N

```
"Thora can't —
```

C

h

0

0

"

Wild Mint

TASTE: As icy fresh as a glacier! One sniff will clear your nostrils. **USE:** t adds flavor to any food, and the micekings believe it cures a cold. **CHARACTERISTICS:** T t grows only in the

warm summer months. T t can be dried to use in winter, but doesn't last long when there's a bad cold season! Mousehilde wiped her nose. "She can't make wild mint tea," she continued. "What do you mean? Sven the Shouter

has ordered it!" her husband said.

"I know, I know,"
Mousehilde replied.
"But

wild mint

is a summer plant.

Achoo!

It's been a bad cold season and all of the dried mint in the village is gone.

"

A a

a

C

h o

0

•

"

A C

h

0

O

"

Bring Your trAvel BAg!

Sven frowned

. "This can't be true.
There
must be some wild
somewhere!"

Then he questioned all of the micekings to try to locate some.

finished just yesterday!" "Last week!" "Last month!" Sven interrupted them. "En fools! This is an emergency Just then, another stone wrapped in parchment flew out of the slo

I picked it up and quickly rea

tugged

on Sven's cape.

Silence!
Um, Chief?
"Chief, I have to tell you some said."

Later

, Geronimo," he said. "Can't you see I'm busy?"

But I couldn't give up. "Excusit's really

important !"

*

The sulfurous springs contain sulfurous wa comes out of the ground hot and smells lik which is why dragons love it!

"Geronimo, I have no time to chat with a smarty-mouseking!" Sven ro a

serious problem

: finding some wild mint. Do you know woome,

you sniveling shrimp?"

I faltered. "I . . . I . . . I . . . no Longsight does!"

Sven exploded. "Why didn't y jellyfish brains

? Tell us

everything!
Read us the note!"
I obeyed. "According to the teller,
there's only one place

where
wild mint
grows in winter: the sul
springs

*

at the summit of Eagles' Cliff."

Great groaning glaciers, there's not a minute to waste!" Sven cried. leave immediately!"
"We're ready,
Chief

Chief

!" the micekings

shouted. Everyone was volunteering to that is, go everyone except me! "I don't need all of you," Sven said, and he turned to me. "Geronimo, since you are the **Smarty**mouseking

in our village, you will go

even though you're as soft as a fish fillet! Your cousin Trap will also go, since he's already wearing his travel pack. And since I don't really trust you two, your

Thea

The Horse Trainer My sister, Thea, is an amazing mouseking. She trains horses and is good with all kinds ofanimals. She seems to their understand moods and needs. That's why she is known as "the whisperer." I bet she could even train a dragon if she tried!

```
sister,
Thea
```

, will come, too. She wi surely recognize the right

plant."
I was paralyzed with fear. "But but . . . I still haven't

breakfast

had

! I have to say good-bye to my nepho And

I don't have a bag packed!"

Save

your excuses, Smarty-

mouseking

!" Sven boomed. "You will leave now, and that's

order!"

the micekings

cried. Sven started shouting again. "T

Bring your travel bag for Gero Then I knew I couldn't refuse

longer. What would the brave

Thora

think of me? I hoisted her tra my back. Oof! It weighed as r mountain

"So says Sven the Shoute

Sven started shouting again. "Quick! To the dock!" he orde will take you on his Geronimo, if you are successful, there mi miceking helmet for you!" As soon as Olaf and his smelly ship were mentioned, my whiskers be to

tremble

with anxiety. I had traveled before, and it had been a disaster. But nothing to do about it. Sven h

decision

! And who knows — maybe I would earn a miceking helmet!

trap and I went to the docl

and I went to the dock. The was waiting for us in front of Olahis miceking boat. He called it Bat

"Where have you been?" Olaf soon as we arrived. "The sea freeze over. We must leave!"

over. We must leave!"
"Couldn't I
nibble
on some cheese

Hurry up and get on board!
Not Olaf's
drekar!
We're
here!
before we go?" I asked.
"

Shivering squids!

Do
you think you're going on a
cruise?" Olaf thundered.
"Get
yourself

on board

before I

do it for you!"

You slipped, geroniMo!

I climbed on board and dropp pack, and Olaf

pawed

me an ice ax. He pointed to a shaky wooden sw from the dragon-shaped

figurehead

at the front of the ship. "Climb on there, blubberhead

!" he ordered me. "Use your puny mu away the ice in the wate forms."

"But captain, I get drekar-sick

afraid

of heights!" I protested.
"Tough!" Olaf said. "We'll

sink

if you don't take care of the

ice!"

"B-b-but —" I stammered.

×

A figurehead is a sculpture that decorates thip.

"No buts!" Olaf yelled. "Get in or I'll toss you in the sea! Of of Olaf the Fearless!

Resigned to my task, I climber the swing that hung just above water.

First I turned as pale as mozzarella

Then I turned as

```
green
as
moldy
cheese.
And the gusts of
1CY
wind practically turned me
into a
frozen fish
We sailed up the coast
toward Eagles' Cliff, but
we
didn't
          get
```

far.

Poor me! Don't be lazy!

```
one
two
three
"The ice is too
thick
! We can't sail
any farther," Olaf declared.
one
way to continue. By paw
laughed.
"And you should get moving,
want to get
trapped
```

in the ice until spring!"

Great groaning gla

Walking on the iced

-over sea wasn't going to be easy. I managed

to take

steps . . . and then I slipped a back!

Squeak!

I tried to stand up and slipped landing on my tail.

Oww!

"Don't worry, Cousin," Trap sa just what you need!" He dug into his big
bag
and started to
take out the strangest things:
wheel
, some spicy cheese sticks .

"Hmm, I was sure I brought to muttered. "Maybe they're dov

bottom

I sighed. "If it's another one of inventions

, I don't have any intention of testing it!" I told have then he smiled. "Four them!" He pulled out what

looked

like two metal

pot lids with straps attached.

"What are you going to do wi Thea asked.

"Just trust me!" Trap said.

I wasn't sure what to

think . He

had me strap the lids to my

feet

, but I was confused.

```
I was spinning
in
circles
Trap and Thea
clapped for
me.
I tried to take a step,
but the lids did not
grip
the ice at
all.
I began to
sp<sub>1</sub>n
```

```
and
tumble
across the ice!
1
2
3
What . . .
```

Oops!

Help...

Ow, ow, ow!
Then, with a final tumble, I slanded right on my

snout.
Brrr, how icy!

"

Hooray
, Cousin!" Trap cheered. "That
was some pretty
fancy footwork
out there."

the forest of A thousAnd scAles

Between tumbles , we finally reached the shore, and I tool terrible

pot lids. But now there was long trek ahead of

us!

Thea walked past me, as

quick

and nimble

as a reindeer.
"Come on, Geronimo. I know

"Come on, Geronimo. I know smarty-mouseking, but you r

up!" she

urged.

I plodded along, out breath. "

Pant

I'm not . . .

puff

... used to walking ...

```
oof
... in the snow."
"Just breathe in the
fresh air
!"
```

she said. "Forward we go!"

There's the forest!
Pant!

Bated Breath

North Sea (iced over!)

Mouseborg THIS WAY

Forest of a Thousand Scales THIS WAY

Finally, we reached the edge of the Forest of a Thousand Scales , an ancient, thick, and dangerou had barely taken a step under branches when the strong

gusts

of wind stopped and a deep silence fell over us. What a

creepy

place! Suddenly . .

•

My stomach's roar echoed through the forest. "shh! Quiet!" Thea

warned me, pointing to

the

trees.

I looked and saw

a

red bird with a long beak,

```
sleeping peacefully
```

I moved closer to get a better look, when . .

Oh no! Not again!

The rumble of my stomach vup

the cute bird with a start.

"Don't just stand there like a dried anchovy

!"

Thea called out. "Run, Geronimo!"

"

Move it
, Cousin!"
Trap added.
I looked at them,
confused. "Why
should I run? It's
just a

sweet

Wh-what's wrong?

The BliTzer

The blitzer is the sleepiest bird on Miceking Island.
It never gets enough sleep because the slightest sound wakes it up, and that makes it very cranky! If you accidentally wake one up, run away quickly, and beware of it

harmless

little bird."

The bird turned and looked a sleepy,

threatening

eyes. Great groaning glaciers! "That's a blitzer and they don't like being woken up!" Thea explained. lot about animals. "Stay away fro beak Geronimo!"

Suddenly, my stomach roared Trap panicked. "Quick! An en

peck peck Run! Hurry! of blitzers lives here. We want to wake them all Run!" We scampered off as fast as a snow leopard — or at least, and Thea did. I am not as fast

as they are, so the blitzer dive-bombed my head! Then it pecked at me with its pointy

beak!
Ow!

()w!

Owieeeeee!

You found it! Way to go! If only I had a miceking helm to protect me! Why, why, why was my sister born with all athletic ability? Why did I have to be **Smarty-mouseking** I ran out of the forest, frantical

trying to get away from

```
blitzer.
So I didn't see the
steep
•
tall
, and
very hard
rocky wall
directly in front of me. I ran r
into it.
```

OUCH!

"Way to go, Geronimo!"
Thea cheered behind me.

"You found Eagles' Cliff!"

oh, deer!

I gazed
up
at the high, rocky wall
Eagles'

"Do we really have to climb t very

very top

Cliff.

?" I asked. "I still haven't had breakfast!"

"We're so close, Geronimo," I "We'll get the wild mint,

climb

back down, and get you some food."

I was about to reply when.

• •

Shivering squids, my sto getting louder each time!

then

And



BOOOOOOO

A deep rumble rang out from high. It sounded just like the rumble of my stomach . . . but much louder!

"It wasn't me this time!" I sai before Trap could blame it me. Thea smiled. "It's just

an echo

, Geronimo.

Now save your breath

. You're going to need it!"

She was right. The exhausting!

Over the next few hours we

walked and walked and walked walked through the snow and cold.

Then, suddenly, I had a little accident as I tried to climb a very stee

rocky

wall.

1

I slipped on the ice! 2 So I lost my grip and

3

fell

But luckily I got

snagged on Trap's backpack! I climbed up again with the wind blowing in my face, freezing my ears and my paws. Finally, I reached the top — and saw a fjordberry bush with three large berries

"Finally, some food!" I cried, drooling

•

But I wasn't the only Brrr! It was barbarically cold!

Uh-oh! bonk! one who noticed the berries . A reindeer stepped up to the bush, sniffing it. When it saw me, it began t scrape the ground with one hoof and watch me with angry eyes. Thea

slowly

inched toward me. "Don't move, Geronimo! Leave in me!"

My sister began to

gently

pet the reindeer. It seemed to calm dit noticed me reaching for the

juicy

berries. I

couldn't help it! I was as dragon!

Ignoring Thea, the reindeer charged toward me and hit m head butt

Then the reindeer ate all othe berries right in front of my

I stood up, brushed off the snow

eyes!

, and then realized that the head me right in front of the entrar cave.

Nice flight!

Heeeeelp!

Thea
sniffed
the air. "We must be near
the

hot springs

, where the wild mint grows. Do you smell the sulfur in the air, Geronimo?"

strange sound

I could hear coming from in the cave. It sounded like the wings.

Great groaning glaciers!
Someone — or
something — was inside that c

Flap Flap

Flap

A five-star cAve

"I heard a
noise
in there," I told Thea
and Trap, but they pushed pas
"Probably another echo,"

"Come on, let's

find

that wild mint!"

We went in. Everywhere we

looked, we saw
smelly
pools
of
boiling,
yellow
sludge.

It stinks in here!

Trap complained, holding his nose.

Once again, I heard the

strange

sound of wings.
"Didn't you hear that?" I ask

the back of my neck was stup.

But Trap and Thea ign determined to find the

wild mint Suddenly, they both stopped a front of me. I peered around my

heart jumped

into my throat. Three enormouse dragons

were bathing in a stinky pool! I recognized one of them: the

terrible dragon cook

from

Beastgard

,

Bubbling water massages tired dragon muscles.

THE CAVE OF EAGLES' CIFFL How delightful! How peaceful! How relaxing! Sulfur powder brightens tired scales. Hot sulfurous water makes for an invigorating

shower.

the land where the dragons lived. He had once tried to cook us 1n up ล cauldron! What was Sizzle doing here? And who were the other two? "This

SSS ulfurou

SSS water ma

SS is age truly SSS uperb, Chomper!" the orange dragon said. Chomper rolled over on the ground. "And thi SS marvelou

SSSS

powder makes my

cales

SSS

SSS

O

S

hiny,

Bully!" added the

SIZZLE

The Cook
Sizzle is the cook for

the court of Gobbler the Putrid, the king of the dragons. Sizzle keeps rowdy dragons in line with his copper soup ladle. He rules the Dragon Kitchen, where he prepares tasty dishes — mostly made

from miceking meat!

purple dragon. "I alway

SSS keep my promi

SSS

e

S

! "

said Sizzle. His laugh echoed throughout the

cavern

•

"Tell u

SSS

, how did

you Gobbler,

our king, to give you

time off?" asked

convince

Bully.

Sizzle puffed up his scaly chest. "I earned

thi

SSS

vacation! I am

```
the be
SSS
t cook in
Bea
S
tgard!"
"Three cheer
S
for
S
SS
izzle,
               who
```

brought

u

SSS
along on his
vacation!" growled

bully

and

CHOMPER

Bully and Chomper have been friends since they were babies. They're both lazy and a bit dim, and they never miss a chance to goof off together.

Bully and Chomper. Thea nudged me.

look

over there! It's wild mint!" she whispered.
Through the clouds of

steam

, my sister had noticed some

green

plants

growing between the rocks.

"How are we supposed to get get too close, the dragons will smell

us!"

I said.

Thea grinned. "Not if ourselves

in stinky

slime!"

She gathered a pawful of

```
smelly sludge
```

and started to smear it all over herself. Trap did the same smelled

like ancient

rotten

eggs

But the thought of the dragon even

worse

than the smell. "I'll just stay behind," I said. "I can't mess cloak that Benjamin just gave have an urgent appointment back in Mouseborg. Very, very **URGENT** But before I could make anoth Trap splashed me with sludge from the top of my fur to the tip of my pushed

"That's our Geronimo, always

me in front of him.

FIRST IN LINE !" Trap said.

FAREWELL, MY DEAR THORA!

My whiskers were

trembling

as we slipped

past the

dragons

, staying close to the cave walls. As we got close mint plants, I could hear

SIZZLE

and
his companions talking. Their
made my
FUR

FUR stand on end!
Sizzle let out a sad sigh.

"If only I had a ta

SSS

ty fresh mou

SSS

eking,"

he said. "I would prepare a nic

SSS

nack!"

Chomper scratched his back ag boulder. "I prefer my miceking he said, "

SSS

erved with a little

```
plash of lemon juice. Do you know how that way,
```

SS izzle?"
"Of cour

SSS
e I know how to make it!"
Sizzle replied.

I can cook anything!

"Can you make grilled miceking, cooked with lot

SSS of fresh herb

SSS ?" Bully

asked the cook.

Sizzle exploded into a laugh the the entire cave. "

Ha,

ha!

I

SSS

ee

that you know nothing about of true cook like me know

that tho

S e are all

SSS

SSS

ummer recipes! In

the

winter

```
, you
make miceking meat into a
```

SSS

tew!"

"Is miceking

SSS

tew ta

SSS

ty?" asked

Chomper.

Sizzle shook his soup ladle

"You mu

SSS t cook the mou

SSS
eking over low
heat
all night,

SSS o that it will ab

SSS orb the flavor

SSS of the

SSS

pices!" he said, licking his lips.

My body went as limp as melted cheese

•

I was too

terrified

to take another step!

Oops!
But Thea had just reached the wild mint

plants.
She gathered a few sprigs and

STUFFED them in her bag. A moment lat

followed her and put some mo into his pack.

I was left behind, alone and paralyzed with

fear!

Suddenly . . .

The loud roaring of my stomach

echoed

throughout the cave! Then it g The

dragons

whipped around, and . . .

surprised

Thea and Trap next to the wild mint

I VVII IIIIIII

Sizzle blocked their way, wavi ladle. "Fresh miceking meat! V

```
SSS
urpri
S
e!"
Bully
let out a cheer. "What luck
Let'
SSS
cook them up for
SSS
upper!"
I was frozen in
fear
```

. I thought the dragons hadn't seen me — but to spotted

me from the corner of his eye.
my surprise, he quickly
HID ME
behind

his long tail.

. S

SS tay quiet," he whispered to licking his

fangs

. "I'll

SSS

lurp you up

later

SSS

0

I don't have to share your ta

SSS

ty chop

S with anyone."

Fresh micekings! What a nice sssurprissse!

Give them to me!
Ouch!

This is the end!

I thought.

Farewell, my dear Thora!

Meanwhile,

SIZZLE

had

tied

up

poor Trap and Thea.

Sizzle was just about to drop T

Thea into a STEAMING POOL

GREAT GROANING GLACI THIS WAS REALLY THE El when Bully stopped him w yell.

SS top! Who

SSS ay S

S

they

S

hould be boiled? I want them roa

SSS
ted! Let me cook
them over those red-hot
rock

SSS over there!"

am the king'

SSS cook!" Sizzle fumed.

```
"
```

T decide how to cook miceking SSS 1 27 Chomper chimed in. 44 S SS o what? Thi

SSS:

i

```
S
n't the king'
SSS
court."
S
izzle did not back down. "Thi
SSS
is my
vacation, remember? I ju
SSS
t brought you
two
10
```

```
S
er
SSS
along with me.
S
SS
o I'm going
to make
the
S
e miceking
SSS
into a
```

SSS tew!"

TAKE THE RATSLE

The dragons continued to

argue

as Sizzle dangled Trap and Thea above

BOILING

water.

Bully's eyes narrowed. "Only C Putrid can command u

S

We don't take orders

from anyone el

SSS

e!" he growled.

"I'll tell the king on you!" Sizz

He'll li

SSS

ten to me!"

"Don't threaten u

SSS

!" said Chomper.

"I've got an idea,"

S

aid Bully. "Let'

```
SSS
S
hare the miceking
SSS
S
SS
o we can each
cook
one however we like."
FIRE
shot from Sizzle's
                        nost
```

```
missing
my sister by half a
tail
```

"That

SSS

eeems fair to me," he said.

```
Pull us up!
Help!
"Then let'
```

SSS do thi

!" urged Bully.

"I'm

SSS

SSS o hungry I could eat a mounta

of miceking

SSS

I was still

HIDDEN

behind
Chomper, paralyzed with feand
from the
stench
of his scales.

"That'

SSS

not fair!" Chomper cried.
"Why not?" asked Sizzle.
"You don't know how

to count," Chomper replied. "There are

```
two
miceking
SSS
and
three
of u
SSS
1 "
Sizzle counted on
his claws. "He'
SSS
right. There are
```

only
two
of them."
"Right! So we can't

cook ONE EACH

ACH

," said Chomper.
I knew Chomper was

lying

to the others.

What would happen if they kan hiding me? I had a

guess

, but there was

only one way to find out.

"That's not true. There micekings!"

I

BRAVELY

cried out. "Chomper is HIDING

me behind his back!"

"Chomper! You

TRAITOR

!" Sizzle fumed.

"Um . . no, there's no

chubby

mouseking back here," Chomper said.

Sizzle BONKED

Chomper on the head with his soup ladle.

"

LIAR!

" Sizzle cried. "That chubby mouseking i

SSS

under your tail!"

"Chomper! You

SSS

neak!" Bully said.

"Who are you calling a

SSS

neak?" Chomper yelled.

Then the three dragons began

FIERCELY

fight one another, just as I had hoped! Sizzle

flung

Trap and Thea aside to free his claws, and the

safely in a pile of sludge.

You liar!

```
"Let's
```

escape

while they're distracted!"

Thea cried.

We

FLED

the cave and ran back to the

edge of the

mountain

. I looked

down

```
down
```

down

It was just a steep, icy wall.

Over here! Which way?

"We can't get down from here!
"Don't be a

scaredymouseking,

Geronimo!" Thea scolded. "Thea will

follow

us once they realize we've escaped."

"But it's too steep and icy!" I s

"Don't worry. I've got a plan

," said Trap.

"What kind of plan?" I asked

whiskers

trembling

. Anytime Trap had a plan, I usually ended up riskin He pointed to the big bun back.

"We'll try out my latest inven

ratsled

He pulled two curved pieces owood

from his bag, along with some

hooks

buckles, oiled rope

, and half of a wooden

barrel

. Then he worked quickly put

them together.

"This ratsled is just big enouall

of he us," promised. Then he handed wood helmets to me and Thea. "These will protect your noggins . Let's hop in and get going!" 44

NO, NO, NO!

I protested. "I don't like your inventions. They never work!

But Thea jumped right into the sled. "Let's give this a try!" she said happily. "TRUST ME, Geronimo," Trap said. "Put on a HELMET and climb in."

THE RATSLED

A FASTER, BETTER SLED! Trap's invention is fast and spacious! curved wood rails permit the sled glide to at superspeeds. The safety cords secure equipment in the seating area. It's big enough to carry three micekings (depending on

sizes) and all passengers MUST wear a helmet. I couldn't bring myself to do it Trap, we would end up running BOULDER

, or a reindeer , or a big

TREE

I could think of a dozen

different ways that sled would make me

lose my fur

!

DOWN THE SLOPE

Um . . . uh . . .
Get in!

HURRY UP

, Geronimo!" Trap urged as he climbed into the ra Thea.

"We've got to

get moving

! "

But I was too scared. "Um, can

think

of another plan," I said.

```
Trap crossed his
arms
impatiently
and
glared at me. "Quit stalling,
all
become
DRAGON FOOD
"But the ratsled doesn't
look
SAFE
," I
protested.
```

"Come on, Geronimo," Trap coaxed me. "Aren't you

hungry

? Think about the

feast

that awaits
us in the village. We'll
celebrate with a
banquet
of

Stenchberg cheese

and pickled herrings. And Mousehilde will make us plenty of gloog

Thea joined in. "What are you waiting for? For herrings to jump out of their bones and

into your mouth?" Hearing them talk about remembered that I was one hungry mouseking ! I could almost smell the aroma of Ster cheese. I held out my paw, grab a **CHUNK**

out of the air. And then . . .

My stomach

in a rumble that was

erupted

amplified by the walls of the n sounded like a

terrifying

roar!

The racket roused the

EAGLES

from

their nests. It interrupted fight.

And, worst of all, it caused an

Looking up at the very top of Eagles'
Cliff

, we could see an enormouse n snow

rolling

right toward us! Great groaning glaciers — that wasn "We're in

trouble

now!" Trap exclaimed.

exclaimed.
Then the

dragons

burst out of the cave.

```
"Let'
SSS
SSS
ee if they're
SSS
till here!"
"We'll gobble them up!"
"Let'
SSS
get tho
S
e rodent
SSS
```

, ,,

Shivering squids

, we had to get out of there fast! So I jumped into the **MIGHTY**

leap . . . and landed upside dow in the seat!

"Hold on — we're leaving!" Th out.

icy mountain, and I squealed is

Then the ratsled

took off

down the

Get them! Aaaaaaaaaaah! Faster! We

ZOOMED

down the slope at super-super-super-high speed, 1 a pine forest. Thea man around the trees.

Squeak! I was so scared.

a row of pointy rocks that beat bottom of the ratsled.

Ow! My poor tail!

a deep icy crevasse, who dodged curves, jumped over bumps sharp

turns.
It made me ratsled-sick!

2
I'm getting worried!
Owie!

1

4

Finally, the crevasse ended we bounce that launched us in super-

miceking speeds!

The ratsled sailed

high

, then

HIGHER

then even

higher

... and then went

```
down
, down
, diving into the Forest of a Thousand Scales.
4
Aaaaaaah!
```

Help!

What a great invention! Luckily, Thea was a skilled pilot! She bounced from **BRANCH** to **BRANCH** until we reached the coast. When I finally opened my were sliding in the direction of the

Bated Breath,
which was just a few yard
ratsled
screeched
to a halt — and then broke in

pieces!
"
The ratsled did great!

"Trap said proudly.
Olaf called out from the ship. "A

"YOU LAZY CHEESEHEAD!" Get a move on! deck, you squishy slugs! We leave immediately!" "That means you, too,

Geronimo

," he added.
Hurry up!
Come on!

DRAGON ATTACK!

We

set sail

immediately, taking advantage of the favorable winds. I grand

started rowing to help us along "Geronimo, are the

dragons

following us?" Olaf called out to me.

```
squinted
at the
            horizon
behind
us — and saw
SIZZLE
Bully
, and
CHOMPER
flying right toward us!
"They're on our tail!" I cried o
Olaf
```

shook his paw. "Row faster,

everyone, if you don't want to up like CODFISH

!"

As we sailed into the port of Me we heard the dragon alarm rin Lookout Cliff.

Toot-tooooooot!

Sven the Shouter ran to meet ufind the

wild mint

?" he asked.

Trap held up the plants. "

Mission

accomplished!

Then Sven saw the three flying "Who told you

cheeseheads

to bring

back the dragons, too?"
We didn't answer, because we

Toot-tooooooot!

busy running for cover like the rest of the micekings. We dashed inside Red Herring , the village diner, just as the dragons descended on the village. They spewed flames from their

nostrils.

- "Look at all the ta
- SSS tv. micokine
- ty miceking
- SSS !" said
- Sizzle.
- "And they're all for u
- SSS
- !" added Bully.
- "You can gobble up the other of
- S , but
- the chubby mou

S

eking is all mine," said Chomper. "When I

SSS

,

ee him, I'll fry him in a flash!"

Sven began to shout orders.

"Load the catapults! Get re launch!"

But we couldn't load the catap heavy boulders.

Great groaning glaciers

they were full of snow

!

Sizzle began to dive-bomb the

Quick!
Take
shelter!
Dragons!
Run!

streets, trying to

smack

fleeing micekings with his soup ladle!

Panicked

rodents ran

from him as fast as they could. Thea looked me right in

"Geronimo,

we must do something. The viltrouble and it's our fault."

I knew she was right, but afraid.

"

B-b-but, they're shooting flame can we do? Arm ours snowballs?"

Thea smirked. "That's just silly

," she said.
Then she froze. "Wait a minu not

not so silly. You said snow Geronimo?

That's an icetastic idea!

"What? Really?" I asked.

"Fill those buckets with

WATER

quickly!" Thea ordered. "Trap, us!"
Thea had Trap and me carry the catapults and dump

ICY WATER on

the snow. That turned the pile

Snow filling the catapults into

dangerous

balls of

ice

. How clever! The oth micekings

saw us and started copying us.

Sven gave a great shout:

The unexpected rain of ice bal

three dragons by

surprise

. It **cooled**This should work!

"Ready! Aim! Fire! Fire! Fire!" Come on, micekings! Oof! Hee, hee! Help!
Ouch!
Let's scram!

down their fiery attacks. They zagged to avoid the ice.

Then . . .

BAM

! One ball hit Sizzle on the nose and he fell into freezing

water

of the fjord. Everyone knows that dra

cold

hate

water, and they especially l

```
it's
clean
"Retreat, fa
SSS
t!" Sizzle hissed. "I must
find a pool of hot,
SSS
tinky water. I'm
freezing!"
The dragons flew off, shaking
scaly
           behind
tails
```

them.

cheered

"Scram, dragons!" Sven shout won't get any miceking mea So

says Sven the

Shouter!"

micekings.

the

"SO SAYS SVEN THE SHO

WHERE'S MY MICEKING HELME

A little beaten up, but with our sound, we handed the

wild mint

to our village chief.

Sven gave a triumphant shout:

The micekings of the village rewith

thunderous

applause.

"As is our tradition, we will

celebrate

the end of this battle with a baa a barbarian!" Sven added. "We

People of Mouseborg, rejoice! They have found the wild mint! Mousehilde

will conquer her cold!"

```
Drink this!
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
ourselves like
polar bears
! We will drink
barrels
of finnbrew! And Mousehilde
make
                  her
mousetastic
gloog
Thora rushed off to prepar
mint
        for
                her
tea
```

mother.

everyone cheered.

So we celebrated Mousehilde and our unexpected

victory

in that

WINTER

battle.

"LONG LIVE SVEN THE SHOU

After a triple serving of gloog, my stomach finally stopped frightening the micekings with its wild GURGLINGS

•

Suddenly, remembered what Sven had said before our journey. He had promised me my very own

MICEKING HELMET

!

Finally! At long, long last, I had done it.

THORA might finally

start to

LOOK

at me as if I were a real mouseking!
Who knows? I thought.

Maybe . .

she will even smile at me! So I approached Sven. "I am re

valiant chief!" I said SOLEMNLY.

"Ready for what, SMARTY-MOUSEKING?"

Sven asked.

"Ready to receive from you ou honor," I replied. "A miceking Sven

SNICKERED

at first, and then an angry look crossed his brought the dragons

right to our village in the

middle of winter, and you war

Forget it!" "Not even a tiny helmet?" I p weakly. "That's not fair." sighed. Luckily, my nephew **BENJAMIN** was there to lift my spirits. He must have noticed my sad expression

"Even without a miceking Uncle,

you're my hero," he said.

And then he jumped into my a and Trap joined the GROUP HUG.

En garde!
Hee, hee!
Great food!
Forget it!
But . . .

"One day you'll get the helme promised.

Trap

SMILED

. "Meanwhile, instead of a

miceking

helmet, you can wear a helmet. What do you so cousin?"

You'll get one!

You're our hero!

I love you!

Ah, that's the Stiltonord way! A united

family

like mine will always
be the greatest reward any
wish
for! And who knows, mayb
really

will have my own miceking he BUT THAT'S ANOTHER

MICEKING STORY

FOR ANOTHER DAY!

MICEKING ISLAND

Want to read the next adof of the micekings? I can't wa you all about it!

FJORD RACE

THE FAMOUSE

It's the day of the Famouse Fjormiceking competition to de best sailormouse. Geronimo Stiltor competing, since he's not a

at all . . . but then he's dragged

Just when he thinks things can the mice learn that the preparing for another attack. Squeak!

Join me and my friends we travel through time i these very special edition Dear mouse fri thanks for reac and good-bye u the next book!

WHO IS

More leveling information for this book: www.scholastic.com/
readinglevel
www.scholastic.com/
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www.geronimostilton.com

Geronimo Stilt

He is a mouseking—the Geronim of the ancient far north! He lives his brawny and brave clan in the of Mouseborg. From sailing froze waters to facing fiery dragons, ev is an adventure for the micekings

ATTACK OF THE DRAG

The micekings are in a panic. The cook is ill, and until she recovers, the

no delicious stew to eat! Geronin Stiltonord departs immediately in search of a cure for her. But on the way, he ends up snout-to-snout verrifying dragons! Can he make back with his fur intact?